

**Springfield Regional Human Rights Authority  
Meeting Minutes  
July 31, 2012**

**Members Present:**

Debbie Weiner, Chairperson  
James Bakunas, Member  
Tara Dunning, Secretary  
Donna Ferguson, Member  
Jan Little, Vice Chairperson  
Linda O'Rourke, Member  
Janet Shelton, Member

**Staff Present:**

Michael J. Pintar, Coordinator

**Members Absent:**

Megan Waldschmidt, Member

**Guest:**

Steven Hamelin, SMTD

**Call to Order:**

Chairperson Debbie Weiner recognized that a quorum was present and called the regular meeting of the Springfield Regional Human Rights Authority to order at 6:05 p.m. on Tuesday, July 31, 2012. The meeting was held at Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center, Springfield, Illinois. Welcome and introductions were made.

**Confidentiality Statement:**

The Coordinator read the confidentiality statement which indicates that personally identifiable information will not be presented in public meetings in order to protect the privacy of those disabled persons on whose behalf the HRA conducts investigations.

**Changes to the Agenda:**

The Chairperson reviewed the agenda and asked for changes.

**A motion was made by Shelton and seconded by O'Rourke to move case 12-050-9018 to the top of the agenda to accommodate our guest, Steven Hamelin. Motion passed.**

**A motion was made by O'Rourke to enter into closed session at 6:07pm. Ferguson seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

12-050-9018 – Access Springfield – Steven Hamelin is present today to discuss in person SMTD's written response to the report and findings. Mr. Hamelin shared the Paratransit service information and rules with the group and discussed changes he is implementing which include cameras and microphones in all paratransit vehicles.

**A motion was made by O'Rourke and seconded by Little to come out of closed session at 6:25pm. Motion passed.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the May 29, 2012 meeting were reviewed. **A motion was made by Shelton to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Ferguson. Motion carried.**

### **Communications:**

Shelton discussed her participation at the Illinois Summer Guardianship Conference on June 13<sup>th</sup>. She felt it was very helpful and she learned a great deal particularly about the Ligas Consent Degree.

Pintar reported that there will be a meeting of the JDC parent's group on August 4 at 11am at the Cobblestone Café on the campus grounds.

### **New Business: Election of Officers**

Officers are elected each fiscal year, usually at the July meeting. After discussion and some arm twisting a slate of candidates was drafted.

Jan Little – Chair

Donna Ferguson – Vice Chair

Tara Dunning – Secretary

**A motion was made by Bakunas and seconded by Dunning to accept the slate of candidates for office as presented. Motion carried.**

### **New Complaints:**

13-050-9001 – a consumer has been working toward discharge from a facility and he, his guardian and the treatment team believe that he is ready to move to a less restrictive setting. The home in the community is prepared for the consumer to move in and preparation was made for a home visit to confirm that the placement was appropriate. At one point, an employee of the placement agency blocked the visit with no clear reason.

**A motion was made by Ferguson and seconded by Little to open case #13-050-9001 for investigation. Motion carried.**

13-050-9002 – a consumer states she was forced to take medication even though she was not a danger to herself or others. They told her that she could refuse the medication and when she refused they threatened to take her to court. Feeling she had little choice, she took the psychotropic medication which made her sick.

**A motion was made by Shelton and seconded by O'Rourke to table case #13-050-9002 until a signed consent form is received. Motion carried.**

13-050-9003 – a consumer was transferred from a long term care facility to a community home. While at the long term care facility it is believed that funds were available for dental care which the facility was mandated to offer but did not. The consumer was transferred to the community home with emergency dental needs. It is

believed the former facility had the responsibility to care for the consumer's dental needs before she was transferred.

**A motion was made by Dunning and seconded by Ferguson to table case #13-050-9003 until Pintar can gather further information. Motion carried.**

**CLOSED SESSION:**

**A motion was made by O'Rourke and seconded by Dunning to enter into closed session at 6:56 p.m.** pursuant to Section 721 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act to discuss confidential and potentially identifiable information.

**A. Case Progress Reports:**

12-050-9001 – Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center – sexual abuse  
*Pintar reported there no new development to report on this investigation.*

12-050-9020 – Bethesda Lutheran Home – medication error  
*Pintar obtained a copy of the OIG report which was unsubstantiated. After review of the report, further investigation will be conducted.*

**B. Draft Reports of Findings:**

12-050-9019 – St. John's Hospital – medical care after a fall on behavioral unit  
*A written report was presented for review and approval.*

12-050-9015 – Blessing Hospital – restraint  
*This case was unsubstantiated. A written report was presented for review and approval.*

**C. Case Closures:**

12-050-9013 – Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center – teeth

12-050-9014 – Blessing Hospital – inadequate treatment  
*Pintar presented a letter received from Blessing Hospital appealing the findings.*

12-050-9016 – Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center – victim lost privileges

12-050-9018 – Access Springfield – rude driver

**OPEN SESSION:**

**A motion was made by O'Rourke at 7:20pm to come out of closed session. The motion was seconded by Shelton. Motion passed.**

**A motion was made by Dunning and seconded by Little to table closure of 12-050-9013 until a response is received. Motion passed.**

**A motion was made by Shelton and seconded by Ferguson to table closure of 12-050-9014 until we response to their request for an appeal.**

**A motion was made by O'Rourke and seconded by Little to approve 12-050-9015. Motion passed.**

**A motion was made by Dunning to close 12-050-9016. The motion was seconded by O'Rourke. Motion carried.**

**A motion was made by Ferguson to close 12-050-9018. The motion was seconded by Dunning. Motion carried.**

**A motion was made by Dunning and seconded by Ferguson to accept the written report with correction for 12-050-9019. Motion carried with 1 abstention.**

**Adjournment:**

Chairperson Weiner adjourned the meeting of the Springfield Regional Human Rights Authority at 7:25pm in her final act as Chair. Thank you Debbie!

Respectfully Submitted,

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Tara Dunning, Secretary

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Date Approved